

REPORT OF Finance Manager and S.151 Officer
To: Full Council
Subject: Gym Equipment / Mobilisation Costs– Active Torridge
Date: 11th April 2022 **Reference:**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek approval to add the acquisition and installation of gym equipment at Torridge Leisure centre to the 2021/22 capital program, and to carry forward the balance on the leisure mobilisation budget.

1. INTRODUCTION

Full Council on the 2nd August 2021 determined that the delivery of leisure services from the 1st April 2022 would be via a wholly owned Local Authority Trading Company Active Torridge. An implementation budget of £250k was also approved.

2. REPORT

Subsequent to the decision made by Full Council on the 2nd August 2021 officers of the Council have been involved in discussions with the current provider of leisure services 1610. One of the items of discussion being the purchase (or otherwise) of gym equipment currently located within the Council's leisure centres.

1610 have informed the Council that the gym equipment currently located within the Northam (Torridge) leisure centre will be removed. The gym equipment currently located at the Holsworthy Leisure Centre will be purchased from 1610 at a cost of £15k.

Consequently it has been necessary for the Council to purchase gym equipment for the Northam (Torridge) leisure centre.

The Leisure Services Manager has reviewed the requirement of the Gym at Northam (Torridge) and after a tender exercise Gym equipment to the value of £93,865 has been ordered.

With Active Torridge due to commence operating the Council's Leisure centres on the 1st April 2022 and with lead in times for the purchase, deliveries and installation of gym equipment being up to six weeks, it has been necessary to place an order for gym equipment prior to formal approval from Full Council.

The Leisure Services Manager after negotiations with 1610 has recommended that the gym equipment currently located at the Holsworthy site be purchased at a cost of £15,175. As the value of this exceeds £10k this purchase will also have to be added to the Council's capital program.

At the time of this report the projected expenditure on leisure mobilisation for the financial year 21-22 is projected to be £186k, (this includes the Gym equipment alluded to in this report) leaving a balance on the budget of £64k.



However further expenditure is planned beyond the 1st April 2022, namely in the following areas:

- New hairdryers
- CCTV
- External cleaning
- Purchase of audio equipment
- Remedial Maintenance

A fuller picture will become clearer from 1st April 2022 onwards when Active Torridge are running the Council's leisure facilities with a Full Report due back to Full Council in October 2022

3. **IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Implications

No specific legal implications

Financial Implications

As outlined in the report

Human Resources Implications

None

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

None

Equality/Diversity

Not applicable

Risk Management

Not applicable

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

This report is in compliance with the Council's Constitution

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Lead Member View

Councillor Clare Hodson

Members will be more than aware of the significant challenges facing the Council with regards to the future delivery of leisure services.

In order that Active Torridge can deliver an effective service effective from the 1st April 2022 it is necessary that the Gyms at Northam and Holsworthy are operational. The purchase of new gym equipment (after a tender exercise) and the existing gym equipment at Holsworthy prior to formal Full Council approval is appropriate in the circumstances.



It would also be prudent to set aside any unspent balance on the mobilisation budget at the end of the financial year 2021/22 in order to further improve the leisure offering to our residents.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- The sum of £111,040 is added to the Council's capital program funded from the implementation budget of £250k.
- That the unspent balance on the mobilisation budget at the end of the financial year 2021/22 is set aside into reserve to be utilised as outlined in the report post April 2022.

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